

Circular

Foreign Office

October 20. 1842.

Sir,

I have to acquaint you that the Right Reverend George Tomlinson D. D. has, with the sanction and approbation of the Queen, been consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England, and has, by Her Majesty's Letters Patent, been appointed to be Lord Bishop of Gibraltar; and that it has further been ordered, with Her Majesty's permission, that the spiritual superintendence hitherto exercised by the Lord Bishop of London over the Ministers and Congregations of the United Church of England and Ireland in certain of the Countries bordering on the Mediterranean, including that Country in which you reside, shall henceforth devolve on the Bishop of Gibraltar.—

Her Majesty's Government trust that all such Ministers and Congregations will pay a dutiful obedience to the Bishop of Gibraltar in all

To. Andrew Buchanan Esq.

H. M's Charge d'Affaires  
in - on - to Slovenia

spiritual

spiritual matters ; and it is the intention and desire of Her Majesty's Government, that Her Majesty's Servants in the Countries referred to, should give all due support to the Bishop whenever he may require it.

I am aware that there may be cases in which arrangements may have been made by British Congregations abroad for the celebration of the rites of the Church of England, over which Her Majesty's Government have no direct controul. In such cases they must trust to the good feeling of those ministers and congregations for the respect and obedience which they may be willing to pay, and it is confidently hoped will pay, to the spiritual character and functions of the Bishop of Gibraltar

But I apprehend that few even of this class of congregations do not in some degree depend upon the Countenance of Her Majesty's Government for the toleration and protection which they enjoy in foreign Countries ; and if they reject the authority of the Bishop of Gibraltar, they must be prepared to risk the advantage which they now derive from the countenance of Her Majesty's Government.

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There are other cases, however, in which the Ministers and Congregations receive pecuniary assistance from Her Majesty's Government; and in these cases Her Majesty's Government will expect and require, as a condition indispensable to the continuance of such assistance, that such Ministers and Congregations shall respect, as their Diocesan, the Prelate who has been selected to exercise spiritual Superintendence over them..

You will therefore acquaint the ministers of any such congregations established in the District wherein you reside, with the appointment of the Bishop, and with the expectation of Her Majesty's Government that, in all spiritual matters, his authority should be respected and obeyed; provided, however, that the injunctions of the Bishop do not require any disrespect to the Laws, customs, and opinions of the Country in which such Ministers may exercise their Clerical duties--

It is the intention of the Bishop from time to time to visit the several churches under his superintendence.-- Whenever, therefore, the Bishop shall arrive at the place of your residence for that purpose,

you

spiritual.

you will shew him all the respect and deference which  
is due to the sacred office with which he is invested; and  
you will furnish him with all proper assistance which he  
may require from you.— At the same time it is not  
intended that you should make any such public demon-  
stration of ceremonious respect for the Bishop, or countenance  
it in others, as may attract an unnecessary degree of  
attention on the part of the Government or People of the  
Country.— Her Majesty's Government would be most  
unwilling that the Episcopal office, which is designed  
to promote the spiritual welfare of Her Majesty's Subjects  
residing in Foreign Parts, should be so administered as  
to excite the jealousy of Foreign Governments or People, or  
should be made a source of strife and discord, religious  
or political — On the contrary, Her Majesty's Government  
earnestly desire, by the temperate and conciliatory manner  
in which the spiritual jurisdiction of the Bishop shall be  
exercised, that it may prove a bond of peace and union  
in the Countries in which it is established.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient  
humble Servant

(signed) Aberdeen